



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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August 2, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management Informational Hearing.** On August 6, 2012, the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management will be holding an informational hearing on emergency interoperability. Among the issues that will be discussed is an update on the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System.
- **Legislature to Reconvene.** The Legislature will reconvene following their summer recess on August 6, 2012 and will have until August 31, 2012 to take action on pending legislation and consider other end-of-session issues. The Governor will have until September 30, 2012 to sign or veto legislation.
- **Status of County Priorities and Critical County-Advocacy Legislation.** During the final month of the 2011-12 Legislative Session, this office and the Sacramento advocates will be focusing efforts on County priorities, critical County-advocacy legislation, and other key issues identified by the Board, as outlined below.

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### **Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management Informational Hearing**

On August 6, 2012, the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management will be holding an informational hearing titled: "*Emergency Interoperability: What's Next for California?*" The hearing will address the importance of emergency interoperability, updates on Federal and State developments, and status updates on the Bay Area Regional Interoperability Communication System (BayRICS) and the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS). Among those expected to testify at the hearing are representatives from the California Technology Agency, the Bay Area Regional Interoperability Communications System Authority, and Mr. Patrick Mallon, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority.

### **Legislature to Reconvene from Summer Recess**

On August, 6, 2012, the Legislature will reconvene from their summer recess to take action on pending legislation and consider other issues, such as pension reform, before the conclusion of the 2011-12 Legislative Session. The deadline for any bills to be passed by the Legislature is August 31, 2012 and the Governor must sign or veto bills by September 30, 2012. The Legislature will not convene again until December 3, 2012 when the 2013-14 Legislative Session begins.

### **Priorities and Critical County-Advocacy Legislation**

During the final month of the 2011-12 Legislative Session, this office and the Sacramento advocates will be focusing efforts on County priorities, critical County-advocacy legislation, and other key issues identified by the Board, including:

#### **County-Sponsored Legislation**

**AB 259 (Smyth)**, which as amended on June 25, 2012, would expand the job qualifications for applicants to the position of the Los Angeles County Public Defender to include sitting or retired judges, judicial commissioners, magistrates, referees or elected public officials. This measure is currently on the Senate Floor for consideration.

**AB 1736 (Smyth)**, which as amended on March 29, 2012, would authorize the Governor to meet with the Board in closed session over security matters. This measure is currently on the Senate Floor for consideration.

## **County-Advocacy Legislation**

**County-support-and-amend AB 1569 (Allen)**, which as amended on July 3, 2012, would extend the sunset date for Laura's Law to January 1, 2017. Laura's Law permits counties to provide outpatient mental health treatment for persons with serious mental illnesses when a court finds that a person's recent history of hospitalizations or violent behavior, coupled with noncompliance with voluntary treatment, indicate the person is likely to become a danger to themselves or others without the court-ordered outpatient treatment. This measure is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2012.

**County-opposed AB 1659 (Butler)**, which as introduced on February 14, 2012, would specify that the employee relations commissions of the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles function operationally and fiscally independent of County and City management. This measure is currently on the Senate Floor for consideration.

**County-opposed AB 1968 (Wieckowski)**, which as amended on May 29, 2012, would authorize a probation officer to carry a firearm as determined by the chief probation officer on a case-by-case basis and would require chief probation officers to develop a policy for arming probation officers who supervise high-risk probationers by June 30, 2013. This measure is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2012.

**County-supported SB 703 (Hernandez)**, which as amended June 25, 2012, would establish the Basic Health Program (BHP) state option allowed under the Federal Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 to provide health care benefits to persons under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level who are ineligible for Medicaid. This measure is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**County-opposed SB 1201 (De León)**, which as amended on May 25, 2012, would make changes to the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act to provide for increased public use of navigable waterways under the control of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District deemed suitable for recreational and educational purposes. This measure is currently on the Assembly Floor for consideration.

## **Other Key Legislation and Critical Issues of County Interest**

In the month of August, the Legislature is also expected to consider legislation and other issues of County interest including legislation related to LA-RICS, the dissolution of redevelopment agencies and the future of economic development; pension reform; and State Budget-related clean-up.

**Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS).** As previously reported, the Administration proposed budget trailer bill language at the end of May to provide a limited exemption to LA-RICS from environmental requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and to only apply to sites that are on publicly owned land (i.e. police, sheriff, or fire stations) which already contain antenna support structures and related infrastructure, and sites that are not located on environmentally sensitive areas. This proposed limited exemption is important to maintain a \$154.6 million Federal grant for the LA-RICS Project. The proposed budget trailer bill language was not included in the enacted FY 2012-13 State Budget; however, the State Legislature is expected to introduce and consider similar legislation this month. **This proposal is supported by the LA-RICS Authority and Sheriff Baca, and the County will continue to support passage of this or similar proposals.**

**Redevelopment and the Future of Economic Development.** The Legislature is expected to continue to discuss the dissolution of redevelopment agencies and to consider pending legislation related to the future of economic development including:

- **AB 2144 (Pérez)**, which as amended on July 3, 2012, would make changes to Infrastructure Financing Districts (IFDs) to: 1) expand the types of facilities and projects that can be financed; 2) reduce the voter threshold for their creation and the issuance of bonds; 3) extend the life of an IFD from 30 to 40 years; 4) authorize an IFD to utilize the powers provided under the Polanco Redevelopment Act (Polanco Act) relating to hazardous cleanup; and 5) rename an IFD to Infrastructure and Revitalization Financing District (IRFD). This measure is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 2012.
- **SB 1156 (Steinberg)**, which as amended on June 27, 2012, would authorize cities and counties to form a joint powers authority, or a city to form a governing board, for the purpose of administering ongoing economic development activities and affordable housing programs under the California Redevelopment Law (CRL) by using tax increment financing along with other finance tools to support the goals of SB 375 (California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act). While deemed "agencies" under the CRL and authorized to use powers of eminent domain, the bodies created under SB 1156 would not be required to make blight findings or eradicate blight as part of their activities. This measure is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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**Pension Reform.** The Legislature is expected to consider pension reform and specifically the Governor's 12-point Pension Reform Plan he introduced in October 2011. Components of the Governor's plan that are likely to be considered include equal sharing of pension costs between employers and employees; the development of a hybrid pension plan for new employees; the increase in retirement age for new employees; the prohibition of pension "spiking"; among other proposals.

**State Budget Clean-up.** The Legislature may also consider additional clean-up legislation to the State Budget to address issues related to 2011 Public Safety Realignment; the calculation and distribution of funds from the dissolution of redevelopment agencies; and the implementation of State Budget-related reforms to In-Home Supportive Services.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:KA:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants